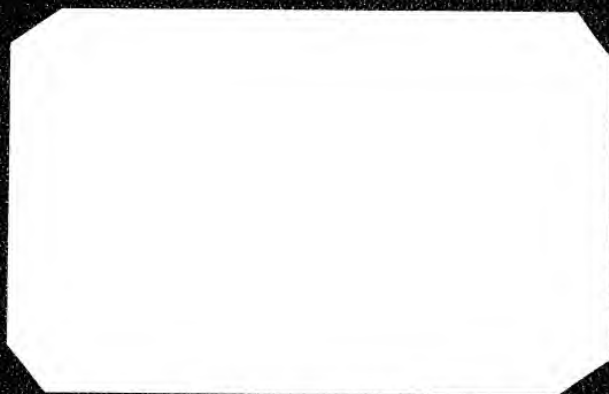


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Alton, Ill.

1853 1903
ERECTED BY
THE CITIZENS OF ALTON
COMMEMORATING THE
CLOSING DEBATE BETWEEN
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
AND
STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS
WHICH TOOK PLACE HERE
OCTOBER 15, 1858

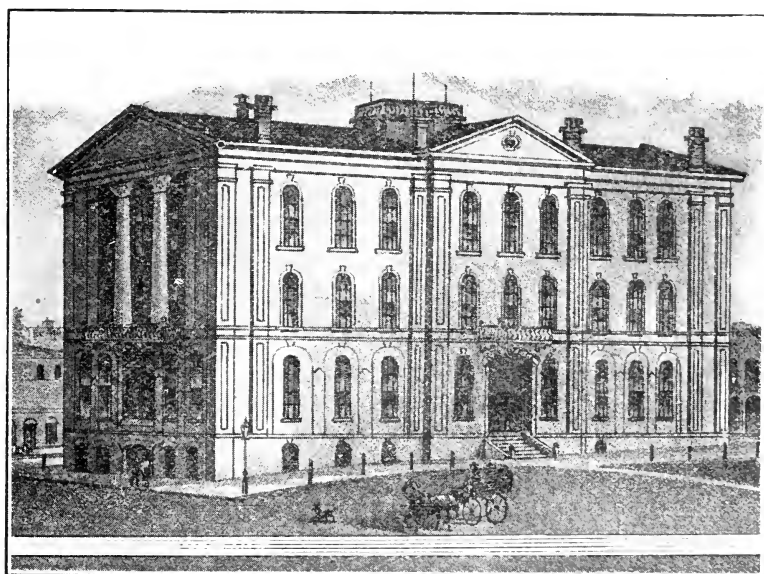
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"For we doubt, not through the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns."

HOME-COMING
AND
SEMI-CENTENNIAL
OF
LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE.
1858-1908.



CITY HALL.

THE City Hall was erected in 1858. The above cut is a correct representation of the building at that time. The debate between Lincoln and Douglas, Oct. 15, 1858, took place at the northeast corner of this building, corner of Second and Market streets, where a platform had been erected.

October 15, 1908.

ALTON celebrates today the semi-centennial anniversary of the seventh and closing debate of the series of discussions between the two intellectual giants of the West, Lincoln and Douglas. It ranks as the greatest political debate in the history of the country. The question of the extension of slavery into national territory was practically settled by that debate, but the nation must pass through a baptism of fire and blood before the final extinction of the institution of slavery.

We meet today in peace and harmony, after fifty years of wonderful national development, and a prosperity that has made this land the richest the sun shines on. It is a land where freedom sits enthroned, where justice reigns, and equal rights to all are accorded under the law.

Our city within that period of fifty years has grown from 7,000 to 20,000 inhabitants. It is a modern city, with every appointment of progress enjoyed by a great metropolis.

We give the hand of welcome today to all who join with us in celebrating the anniversary of an event which crowned an epoch of high endeavor. Our cordial greetings go out to all our guests from near and far who join with us in this commemoration. And may we all dedicate ourselves to perpetuating the heritage of liberty transmitted to us by our fathers.

OCTOBER 15, 1858.

THE weather on the day of the debate was threatening in the morning but pleasant in the afternoon, a typical Indian summer day. Lincoln and Douglas, who were rival candidates for the Senate, arrived from Quincy by steamer about daylight, and both took breakfast at the Alton House, on Front street. After breakfast a committee of Republicans escorted Lincoln to the Franklin House, where he received his friends. Douglas held a reception at the same time at the Alton House.

The city was gayly decorated with flags and bunting and the banners of the two rival candidates. Many significant mottoes were displayed on the flags and banners.

The city was thronged with visitors, many delegations arriving on special trains on the railroads and by steamers from St. Louis. The delegation from the State Capital was escorted by the Springfield Cadets, a fine military company, and Merritt's Band. This delegation included many State officials.

The speakers' platform was erected at the northeast corner of the City Hall, Second and Market streets. It was decorated with the national colors, but no partisan mottoes were permitted thereon.

Messrs. C. Stegleman and W. T. Miller were the committee to erect platform; B. F. Barry and Wm. Post to superintend music and salutes; Hon. H. G. McPike and Dr. W. C. Quigley in charge of platform.





FRANKLIN HOUSE.

THIS hotel, which is still standing, was the headquarters of Mr. Lincoln, and here he held a reception prior to the debate. It is located on State street, opposite Third, and is now known as the Lincoln Hotel. Its exterior appearance is the same now as then. The late Samuel Pitts, Sr., was the proprietor at that time.

By agreement of the two parties the reception of the two speakers was without parades or partisan demonstration, but the various delegations paraded the streets cheering enthusiastically for the two champions, now for Lincoln and then for Douglas.

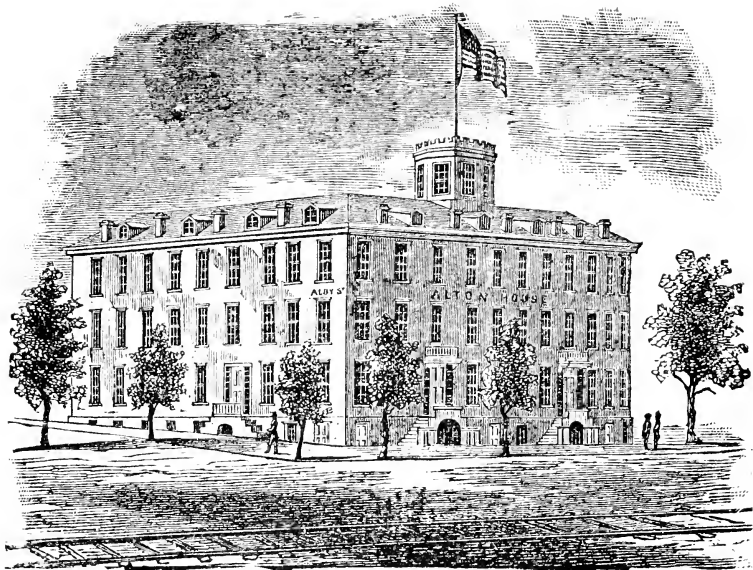
At two o'clock when the debate opened a crowd of some 5000 or 6000 surrounded the platform. Judge H. W. Billings, a Douglas Democrat, presided, by agreement of the two parties, and introduced the speakers.

Senator Douglas spoke first and was received with loud applause. His voice was shattered by much out-door speaking and he was heard with much difficulty.

After Senator Douglas had spoken an hour Mr. Lincoln was introduced and spoke an hour and a half. He received a tumultuous greeting.

Douglas made a half hour rejoinder and the debate closed, both parties claiming that their champion had won. The speeches were listened to with close attention and the telling points heartily cheered.

Political meetings addressed by noted speakers were held by both parties that evening as well as the evening before and drew large audiences.



ALTON HOUSE.

THE above is a correct representation of the Alton House where Senator Douglas had his headquarters and received his friends on the day of the debate. Mr. H. S. Mathews, who is still living in Alton, was the proprietor. The building was a famous hostelry in its time. It stood on the corner of Front and Alby streets, facing the river. It was destroyed by fire soon after the war.

Many newspaper men were present from abroad to report the debate. Among them were correspondents of the St. Louis Republican, St. Louis Evening News, the Boston Traveler, the New York Evening Post, Chicago Times, Hon. Geo. T. Brown of the Alton Courier and Jno. Fitch of the Alton National Democrat. Also Robt. R. Hitt and Horace White of the Chicago Tribune, both of whom became distinguished national figures. [Mr. White is with us today].

The noted men in attendance were many. Among them were ex-U.S. Senator David J. Baker and U.S. Senator Lyman Trumbull, both of Alton, ex-Gov. John Reynolds of Belleville, and ex-Gov. J. A. Mattison of Springfield, Hon. Cyrus Edwards of Upper Alton, Gen'l Curran, Hon. O. M. Hatch and Hon. Jas. Miller of Springfield, Hon. Jno. M. Palmer of Carlinville, Hon. J. O. Norton of Joliet, and many others.

Of the great leaders present that day in Alton four became aspirants for the Presidency—Lincoln and Douglas in 1860, Trumbull in the Liberal convention of 1872, and Gen. Palmer in 1896. Truly, great statesmen on that day walked these streets and held high converse with our people.

Program.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1908.

Home-Coming Day.

Evening—Band Concert.

Reception by Benevolent, Fraternal and Religious organizations.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15.

Lincoln-Douglas Day.

Morning—Parade, 10:00 o'clock.

MEMORIAL TABLET EXERCISES AT CITY HALL:

Music.

Invocation.

Presentation of Tablet by Rev. A. A. Tanner.

Unveiling of Tablet by John Drummond Bowman.

Acceptance of Tablet by Honorable Mayor Edmund Beall.

Afternoon, 2 o'clock.—

Addresses at Air Dome as follows:

“Lincoln and Douglas”—Hon. J. McCann Davis.

“Popular Sovereignty”—Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, Jr.

“Lincoln”—Hon. Clark E. Carr.

“Douglas”—Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson.

Evening—Merchants' Parade; Fireworks.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16.

Old Settlers' Day.

Morning and Afternoon—Old Settlers' Meeting at Air Dome.

Hon. H. G. McPike, Chairman. Five minute speeches by
Old Settlers.

Evening—Illuminated River Parade, and Fireworks.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17.

National Political Day.

Addresses at Air Dome.

REPUBLICAN SPEAKERS:

Governor Augustus E. Willson of Kentucky.

Hon. Seth Low, former Mayor of New York City.

DEMOCRATIC SPEAKERS:

Ex-Gov. D. R. Francis of Missouri.

Hon. Ignatius Dunn, Lincoln, Neb.

Congressman Henry T. Rainey of Illinois.



LOVEJOY MONUMENT.

NO visitor to Alton should fail to visit the Lovejoy Monument in the City Cemetery. This stately and beautiful memorial to the pioneer anti-slavery champion whose tragic death, in this city, Nov. 7, 1837, was the prelude to the irrepressible conflict between freedom and slavery, was erected in 1896 by the State of Illinois and citizens of Alton, at a cost of \$30,000. Lincoln and Lovejoy are names inseparably linked in history, and we celebrate today their conflict and their victory.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS COMMEMORATION.

H. G. McPIKE, President.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

J. H. Yager,
E. P. Wade,
J. A. Cousley,
J. J. Brenholt,
W. A. Haskell,

Fuller T. Rodgers,
J. L. Blair,
L. Pfeiffenberger,
Sam'l Wyss,
T. H. Perrin.

J. J. McINERNEY, Secretary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

E. M. Bowman, *Chairman*,
Jacob Wead, *Secretary*,
H. B. Sparks,

J. F. McGinnis,
Jos. Faulstich,
E. M. Dorsey.

COMMITTEE ON SPEAKERS.

H. Tonsor, *Chairman*,
Dr. G. Taphorn,

W. T. Norton,
H. S. Baker.

FINANCE.

J. Elble,

L. J. Hartmann.

E. G. Meriwether.

PROGRAM.

P. W. Coyle,

L. Hellrung,

H. A. Wutzler,

PARADE.

Col. A. M. Jackson,

W. Weisbach,

C. E. Freeman.

RIVER PARADE COMMITTEE.

Capt. C. F. Sparks,
Capt. Eugene Webb,

Capt. B. B. Harris,
Capt. Henry Winter,

Capt. H. R. Combs, St. Louis.

Capt. W. D. Fluent,
Capt. H. L. Black,

DECORATION.

W. H. Neermann,

Herman Reck,

H. J. Bowman.

MUSIC.

John F. Busse,

J. W. Schmoeller, Jr.,

W. D. Armstrong.

PUBLICITY AND AMUSEMENT.

Wm. Sauvage,

Wm. Netzhammer,

J. B. Steck.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

Edmund Beall, *Chm.*,

Geo. T. Davis,

Chas. M. Yager,

Orland Hemphill,

Dennis Noonan,

Max Trube,

Harry Chaffer,

James Chessen,

Geo. Burton,

Aug. Neermann,

Wm. Beiser,

Fred Volbracht,

Henry Calame,

Jas. H. Aldous,

Capt. H. Brueggemann,

Harvey Black,

Aug. Barth,

Jno. H. Booth,

W. H. Bauer,

J. H. Bauman,

W. A. Bode,

Jos. Broderick,

S. B. Baker,

M. H. Boals,

C. A. Caldwell,

J. T. Corbett,

G. Frank Crowe,

Rev. H. M. Chittenden.

H. W. Chamberlain,

J. W. Cary,

Robt. Curdie,

B. H. Coyle,

Dr. Chas. Davis,

Levi Davis,

J. E. Dunnegan,

H. S. Dorsey,

J. N. Drummond,

Geo. Dickson,

Wm. Duncan,

Walter Day,

A. L. Daniels,

Richard Eck,

Wm. Fries,

T. L. Foulds,

R. M. Forbes,

Roy Goulding,

Herbert Giberson,

Thos. Gallagher,

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.—Continued.

Chas. Huskinson,	Fred Lehne,	Harvey Rumsey,
Geo. Huskinson,	Aug. Luer,	Frank J. Rue,
Geo. D. Hayden,	Dr. Harry Lemen,	J. F. Randall,
John Haskell,	P. Lafferty,	Prof. B. C. Richardson,
Capt. G. W. Hill,	Harry Lessner,	George Rose,
Rev. R. P. Hammons,	John Lock,	E. A. Smith,
J. J. Hammond,	W. T. Loudon,	O. S. Stowell,
Jos. Hermann,	Geo. Marsh,	Louis Schlaflly,
A. J. Howell,	Henry Meyer,	H. M. Schweppe,
Geo. E. Hopkins,	A. R. McKinney,	W. M. Sternberg,
Chas. Holden,	Harry Mackinaw,	Wm. Sweetzer,
C. F. Hewitt,	Cornelius McHenry,	R. F. Seely,
A. W. Hope,	John Mangan,	Dr. J. N. Schaff,
Geo. R. Hewitt,	J. V. E. Marsh,	Rev. E. L. Spalding,
Prof. R. A. Haight,	S. R. McClure,	Chas. Seibold,
Jos. E. Holl,	J. B. Marquis,	Geo. H. Smiley,
W. F. Hoppe,	O. C. Macey,	John Sutter,
Fred Immenga,	Geo. Z. Miller,	W. E. Smith,
Wm. Joesting,	U. S. Nixon,	Wm. Sonntag,
Harry Jenkins,	W. C. Norman,	Henry Tonsor,
H. K. Johnston,	Wm. Netzhammer,	Rev. M. W. Twing,
C. J. Jacoby,	F. W. Olin,	G. E. Wilkinson,
I. H. Kelley,	Samuel Pitts,	Dr. Frank Worden,
Geo. Kirsch,	Henry Penning,	T. A. Taylor,
Henry Kopp,	E. C. Paul,	Louis Walters,
John Kremer,	P. H. Paul,	Henry L. Winter,
Allen Keiser,	Rev. Dr. Riggs,	Vincent Wardein,
Capt. Henry Leyhe,	J. M. Ryrie,	Albert Wade,
Capt. Wm. Leyhe,	Geo. M. Ryrie,	C. A. Wuerker,
G. H. Lane,	J. S. Roper,	Dave Wyckoff,
Geo. Levis,	A. R. Robinson,	Minor S. Watson,
Harry Levis,	C. B. Rohland,	Dr. T. P. Yerkes.

Woman's Rest Room—Council Chamber, City Hall.

Bureau of Information—A. J. & P. Ry. Office, Third and Belle.

Points of Interest.

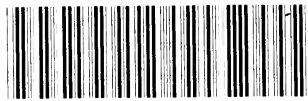
Shurtleff College (oldest in the West), Monticello Seminary, Western Military Academy, Lovejoy Monument, Lovers' Leap, Art Exhibit at Wiseman's Studio, Second and George Sts.

Alton has the largest hollow-ware glass factory in the world, with 3,500 employes. The works cover fifty acres.

Alton has ten miles of electric railway and twenty miles of brick paved streets within the city limits.

Alton mills produce 4,500 barrels of flour per day.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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